

# Watts CURRENT

## 2011 Person of the Year

### 2011 Person of the Year - Norman Ferguson

Norman (Norm) Ferguson was born on January 13, 1941 to John and Ida Ferguson near Manchester, South Dakota. He grew up in the Manchester area and graduated from Bancroft High School in 1959. Following high school he enlisted in the Army, serving in Korea and stateside from 1960 to 1963.



Following military service, Norm applied for work at Northwestern Bell Telephone and Lothrop Electric Service in Huron, South Dakota; the call came first from Lothrop Electric where he continued working for 20 years.

On February 21, 1965 he married Lois Beckman at Huron where they still live today. Together they raised two daughters, Cynthia and Kathleen; Kathi is deceased; Cindy, her husband, and two sons live in Rapid City, South Dakota.

In 1983 he started his own contracting and service business in Huron called Ferguson Electric Inc; the business continues today. His wife Lois has worked with him for 25 years. They also have apartment and commercial rentals.

Norm is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Huron. He is a lifetime member of the VFW and a member of the American Legion. He is also a longtime member of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors and the South Dakota Electrical Council, Huron Chapter.

He enjoys spending time with family, traveling, hunting and fishing.

**Save the Date: Annual Conference, May 4-5, 2012**

**Hosted by the Oahe Chapter**

**Pay Membership Dues Online at [www.sdec.org/member\\_app.htm](http://www.sdec.org/member_app.htm)**

#### Inside this Issue

Person of the Year . . . . .	1	2012 Person of the Year Form . . . . .	4
Presidents Notes . . . . .	2	Chapter News . . . . .	5
Arne Electro-Tech Seminars . . . . .	3	Calendar of Events . . . . .	6

[www.sdec.org](http://www.sdec.org)

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**Check [www.sdec.org](http://www.sdec.org) for the latest Chapter meeting dates.**

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES - Mike Fisher

Welcome back after the summer break! I'm proud and excited to continue to be the SDEC State president after being nominated for another term. I would like to thank the members for their vote of confidence.

The local chapters are in high gear providing quality educational opportunities for the members. The thing to remember is to be actively engaged in the organization. Whether it's helping at the Chapter meeting, suggesting topics that you would like to learn more about, or volunteering to be on a committee or board, be engaged in the SDEC and not just a member.

Along with the local chapter meetings there are also DVD's and Power Point presentations on a variety of topics that are available to the members. The details are on the website [www.sdec.org](http://www.sdec.org).

While you're on the website, remember that the Chapters are posting the meeting notices online and that you will find the details of the meetings not only for your local Chapter but all the Chapters. Your membership enables you to attend the monthly meetings without an additional cost.

Please also note that the 2012 SDEC Conference will be held in Pierre on May 4-5.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please don't hesitate to contact your local Chapter representatives or the State Board members. If you are unsure about who to contact their information is listed on the website.

*Mike Fisher*

### SDEC Advertising Rate Sheet

The "Watts Current" is a semi-annual publication that is mailed to our membership, and advertisers. We mail the publication in March and October. Ads are due to our office by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Page	Approximate	Rates	
Size	Dimension	Issue	Year
Full	7.5" x 9.5"	\$200	\$325
Half	5" x 7.5" or 3.5" x 9.5"	\$75	\$140
Quarter	3.5" x 5"	\$50	\$90
Eighth	3.5" x 2.25"	\$35	\$50

**For more information contact:**  
 South Dakota Electrical Council  
 401 East 8th Street, Suite 214-512  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57103  
 (888) 299-1675 or (605) 339-8888  
[sdec@iw.net](mailto:sdec@iw.net) - [www.sdec.org](http://www.sdec.org)

**Thank you for your  
service to the  
Board of Directors**

Tom Nelson

## Board Meetings

January 12, 2012

Conference Call  
9:00 AM CST

May 3, 2012

Ramkota Hotel  
Pierre, SD  
6:00 PM CST

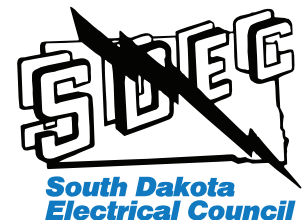
### Board of Directors

Mike Fisher . . . . . President  
 Jeff Larus . . . . . Vice-President  
 Kelli Fuhrmann . . . . . Council Administrator

### Board Members

Steve Arne  
 Reggie Gassman  
 Steven Hietpas  
 Ray Kub  
 Roger Larson  
 JJ Linn  
 Carl Maas  
 Mike Miller  
 Mike Sprang  
 Troy Swift

*SUPPORT IN THE PAST  
STRENGTH FOR THE FUTURE*



**[www.sdec.org](http://www.sdec.org)**



# Code Classes for Electrician Continuing Education SD Renewal Year Classes!

**Arne Electro Tech  
Steve Arne**

Volume 11, Issue 10  
Oct 3, 2011

## Pass your Electrical Exam! Journeyman and Master/Contractor Prep Classes NEC Code Update with SDEC Discount!

All classes are approved for 8 or 16 hours of Code in SD, IA, WY, NE, MN, MT, & more IA 18 hr option on some classes- call us

### 2011 NEC Code Update Class:

**Rapid City, SD** Arne Electro Tech Classroom  
Nov 7-8, 2011 (Mon-Tues)

**Rapid City, SD** Arne Electro Tech Classroom  
Jan 9-10, 2012 (Mon-Tues) [Feb 11 Sat 1-day class]

**Watertown, SD** Ramkota Hotel & Event Center  
Feb 23-24, 2012 (Thurs-Fri)

**Rapid City, SD** Arne Electro Tech Classroom  
March 5-6, 2012 (Mon-Tues)

**Huron, SD**, Crossroads Hotel  
Mar 22-23, 2012 (Thurs-Fri)

**Aberdeen, SD** BW Ramkota  
April 12-13, 2012 (Thurs-Fri)

**Rapid City, SD** Arne Electro Tech Classroom  
April 23-24, 2012 (Mon-Tues)

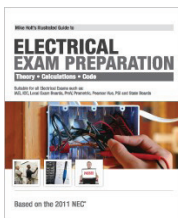
**Sioux Falls, SD** Holiday Inn City Center  
June 14-15, 2012 (Thurs-Fri)

**Rapid City, SD** Arne Electro Tech Classroom  
June 21-22, 2012 (Thurs-Fri)

**Cost:** Registration/payment: \$250 for 16 hrs/\$150 8 hrs. Registration/payment within 2 weeks of class date, add \$10 late fee

**Classes include free "Ugly's" Electrical Reference book or similar reference book.**

**SDEC SPECIAL: Current SDEC Members, Save \$10 per day on Code Update at: [www.AETech.com/cat/sdec](http://www.AETech.com/cat/sdec)**



**Comprehensive Exam Prep Combination!** The 2011 NEC Code Update and the Code Calculations may be taken separately or in combination. Classes are held in Rapid City

**Day 1-2: NEC Code Update.** 16 hrs. This "pre-session" for the Exam Prep course is a great over-all review of the NEC. Approved for continuing education Code credit. NEC REQUIRED. (Cost: see left column)

**Day 3-4: NEC Electrical Code Calculations for Exam Prep.** 16 hrs. Covers the NEC calculations for an exam. Approved for code credit. Cost \$325 plus Mike Holt's Exam Prep book and NEC REQUIRED. (late payment price; add \$10)

**Day 5: Master/Contractor Exam Prep Commercial Calculations.** 8 hrs. This is an extension of the 2-day calculations course. (2 day course is a prerequisite) Approved for code credit. Cost \$150 plus Mike Holt's Exam Prep book (\$60) and NEC REQUIRED. (Late payment price: add \$10)

**Registration/Payment:**  
4-day Journeyman Class \$575 (late payment \$595)  
5-day Master's Class \$725 (late payment \$755)

### Exam Prep Class Dates

- Nov 7-11, 2011
- Jan 9-13, 2012
- March 5-9, 2012
- April 23-27, 2012



Steve Arne is an experienced electrician and educator with over 25 years of electrical teaching experience and over 35 years in the electrical field. Steve does technical editing for Mike Holt Enterprises in addition to teaching at Arne Electro Tech Seminars

**Arne Electro Tech Seminars**



**WWW.AETech.com**  
888-603-5050 toll free  
605-342-9088  
Call 8 am-12 noon Mon-Thurs for live assistance

**1st Day Registration**  
7:30 a.m.  
Daily: 8am—5pm

- **Enroll at AETech.com**
- **Get email schedules at AETech.com**
- **Significant Code Changes**
- **Major credit cards**
- **Check our Website for more classes, and updates**
- **All classes subject to minimum and maximum enrollments**
- **Dates, locations, and costs are subject to change**

"I just wanted to let you know that I passed my Wyoming Master Electrician exam. Thank you for a great class! I don't think I would have had the same success if it weren't for attending your 5-day class.  
Brian G.

Two weeks after attending your 5-day class I took and successfully passed the WY Journeyman, SD & NE Contractor exam. I highly recommend this class to everyone!  
Bradford (Woody) L.

Scan the QR code to the left with smart phone to download schedule informa-



In God We Trust



## SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COUNCIL

### Person of the Year Requirements and Nomination Form

1. The person must have been active in the electric industry for a period of at least fifteen (15) years.
2. The person must be recognized as an authority in his/her segment of the electric industry in South Dakota.
3. The person must be recognized for his/her sincerity, willingness, tactfulness, sobriety in connection with his/her approach to the advancement of the electric industry, and for having devoted time and energy above and beyond that of the normal course of his/her work.
4. He/She must have made contributions to the practice of electric education, safety, generation transmission or utilization within the State of South Dakota.
5. He/She must be recognized as one who over the years has also made significant contributions outside of those within the industry and one who has been active in the general public interest.
6. One other consideration should be to someone with fewer years in the electrical business but who has done outstanding work in promoting electricity. (Amended – December 16, 1966)
7. An effort shall be made to award this achievement to the person in the proximity of the annual conclave. (Amended – December 7, 1987)
8. The president of the SDEC shall present an award, to the achievement winner along with a lifetime membership to the SDEC. (Amended – April 7, 1987)
9. Past President's of the SDEC shall be considered for the award.

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Local Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return the nomination form to:**  
 Mike Sprang  
 2613 South Camden Avenue  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57106

**New Board Member - Jeff Larus**

Jeff is currently a Building Inspector III for the City of Rapid City in the Growth Management Department. November 2010 marked his twentieth year employed by the City of Rapid City. He currently performs electrical and mechanical inspections and heads up the mechanical inspection program.

He is currently a member of the Industrial Electronics Advisory Board at Western Dakota Tech and also teaches continuing education classes for the Corporate Education Program there as well. He was awarded the 2010 Distinguished Alumni from Western Dakota Tech.

His current State of South Dakota certifications and licenses include: Electrical Inspectors License, Electrical Journeyman License, Emergency Medical Technician Certification, Fire Fighter I Certification, Rescue Technician Certification, and Rapid City Masters Electrician License.

His International Association of Electrical Inspectors Certifications include: 1 and 2 Family Dwelling Electrical Inspector, General Electrical Inspector, and Electrical Plan Review.

His International Code Council Certifications include: Electrical Inspector, Building Inspector, Plumbing Inspector, Mechanical Inspector, Combination Inspector, Electrical Plan Review, and Mechanical Plan Review.

Jeff's International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials Certifications include: Plumbing Inspector and Mechanical Inspector.

Jeff is currently Vice President of the Black Hills Chapter of the South Dakota Electrical Council. He has been a member of the Pennington County Search and Rescue Team for the past 21 years.

Jeff and his wife are licensed foster parents through Lutheran Social Services, providing treatment foster care for the past 13 years. They have been honored with many awards and recognitions over the years for their work helping children through the Casey Family Program, State of South Dakota, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills, and Lutheran Social Services.

**Chapter News**

**Support Your Local Chapter of SDEC**

**Black Hills Chapter**

President Steve Arne 605-342-9088  
blackhills@sdec.org

**Brookings/Watertown Area Chapter**

President 605-534-3535 ask for Reggie Gassman  
waterbrook@sdec.org

**Hub Area Chapter**

President (605) 426-6510 ask for Tony Simon  
hub@sdec.org

**Huron Area Chapter**

President Carl Maas 605-352-8411  
huron@sdec.org

**Oahe Chapter**

President Brent Schoulte 605-224-1633  
oahe@sdec.org

**Sioux Chapter**

President Mike Fisher 605-323-2306  
sioux@sdec.org

For a complete listing of upcoming Chapter meetings or pay membership dues:

**www.sdec.org**

**Mission Statement**

Founded on December 3, 1952, the purpose of the South Dakota Electrical Council is to promote and improve the electrical industry within South Dakota. The council strives to promote technical and product knowledge, continuing education, and better communication among its members through trade shows, joint utility training, newsletters, awards and individual chapters of the South Dakota Electrical Council. The SDEC and its membership are committed to building cooperation, fostering goodwill, and developing pride among all segments of the electrical industry.

**Annual Conference**  
**May 4-5, 2012**  
Annual Conference hosted by the  
**Oahe Chapter**  
**Ramkota Hotel - Pierre, SD**  
**www.sdec.org**

SDEC Calendar of Events

Board Meetings

January 12, 2012 - Conference Call

May 3, 2012 - Ramkota Hotel, Pierre

Open to:

- Chapter Presidents
• Chapter Representatives
• Conference Chairs
• Board Members

Annual Conference

May 4-5, 2012

Annual Conference hosted by the
Oahe Chapter

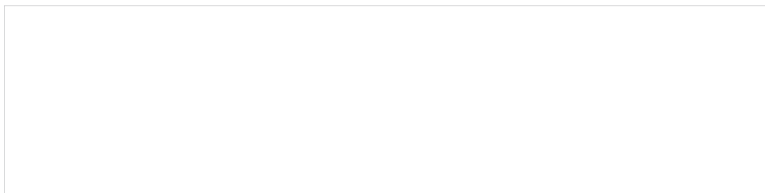
Ramkota Hotel - Pierre, SD

www.sdec.org

Chapter Meeting Information
Pay Membership Dues
www.sdec.org

... "Every man owes a part of his time and
money to the business or industry to which he is
engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold
his support from an organization that is striving
to improve conditions within his sphere."

Theodore Roosevelt



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